

H. R. 351.

[Report No. 411.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JULY 24, 1850.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. POTTER, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, reported the following bill:

A BILL

To reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That letters carried in the mail of the United
4 States shall be charged with postage as follows:

5 Upon each letter not weighing over one half ounce,
6 when postage is paid where such letter is mailed, three
7 cents; and for each additional half ounce, or fraction of
8 half an ounce, when so prepaid, there shall be charged
9 three cents. There shall be charged upon each unpaid
10 letter weighing not more than one-half ounce five cents,
11 and for each additional half ounce, or fraction of half an
12 ounce, when so unpaid, the sum of five cents.

1 **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* There shall
2 be charged on each newspaper, of no greater size than
3 nineteen hundred square inches, transmitted through the
4 mails from the office of publication to any place out of
5 the State where published, the sum of one cent ; and for
6 any such newspaper delivered within the State where pub-
7 lished, the sum of one-half cent ; and for each newspaper
8 of larger dimensions than above specified, shall be charged
9 with an additional rate for each additional nineteen hundred
10 square inches or fraction thereof. And all pamphlets, peri-
11 odicals, magazines, and every other description of printed
12 matter, (except newspapers,) which shall be unconnected
13 with any manuscript or written matter, and which it is, or
14 may be lawful to transmit through the mails of the United
15 States, shall be chargeable with postage at the rate of two
16 cents for each copy sent of no greater weight than one
17 ounce, and one cent in addition for each additional ounce,
18 or fraction of an ounce. Bound books not weighing over
19 thirty-two ounces shall be deemedailable matter under
20 the foregoing provisions, anything in the fifteenth section
21 of the act approved March third, eighteen hundred and
22 forty-five, to the contrary notwithstanding.

1 **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* The directors
2 of the mints in the United States are authorized and re-
3 quired to coin pieces of the value of three cents, composed

4 of three parts silver and one part alloy, which shall be a
5 lawful tender for all debts due to the Government of the
6 United States, and to individuals, persons, and corporations.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* It shall be the
2 duty of the Postmaster General to provide and furnish to
3 all deputy postmasters, and other persons applying and
4 paying therefor, suitable stamps of the denomination of
5 three cents to facilitate the prepayment of the postages
6 provided for in this act. And to any person who shall de-
7 sire to purchase of the Postmaster General, or of any
8 deputy postmaster at any one time, an amount of stamps
9 to the value of fifty dollars or upwards, such stamps shall
10 be furnished at a discount of ten per cent. upon their par
11 value. All deputy postmasters who shall receive at any
12 one time stamps to the amount of fifty dollars, shall be al-
13 lowed a deduction of ten per cent. upon the par value.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That there is
2 hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not
3 otherwise appropriated, the sum of one million five hun-
4 dred thousand dollars to supply any deficiency that may
5 arise in the Post Office Department